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ABSTRACT

This book links research on two topics--sexual assault on North American college and university campuses and the role played by male peer support in such assaults. Disputing the notion that college campuses are safe havens from crime, the first chapter defines sexual assault, notes the incidence and prevalence of campus sexual assault, and discusses why assault victims are not taken seriously. Chapter 2 reviews several male peer-support theories of sexual assault, including Kanin's reference group theory, the standards of gratification thesis, and Sanday's psychoanalytic theory of gang rape. Chapter 3 deals with the effect on attitudes and behavior of growing up in a rape-supportive, male-dominated culture; it reviews studies of masculinity, and covers sexual abuse before college, rape myths, pornography, hidden victims and how woman abuse affects men, which is illustrated by a personal narrative. Chapter 4 covers the main factors associated with campus sexual assault--alcohol consumption, male peer-support group membership, sports team violence, and the absence of deterring actions by university authorities. Chapter 5 reviews prevention strategies and policies, ranging from opportunity reduction to educational campaigns to alcohol policies to codes of conduct and disciplinary procedures. Appended is a personal narrative of a rape victim. (Contains 380 references.) (CH)

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